

be made to get our fiscal house in order. But as soon as tax cuts are offered by the tax cutting party, that is the Republican Party, of course the other side immediately pulls out their half-serious arguments about blowing a hole in the deficit and about how Democrats have been the party of fiscal discipline all these years. In a word, it is nonsense. Spending good; tax cuts bad. That is their world view, and their rhetoric reflects it.

So, again, I ask the question: Why are tax cuts a so-called threat to our balanced budget, but new spending is not?

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LANDING ON THE MOON

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on a lighter note, today, I think we ought to pause to remember the triumphant achievement of man's first steps on the moon. Thirty years ago today, my friend, Buzz Aldrin, landed the lunar module on the surface of the moon.

Buzz and I went through flying school together and flew combat in Korea together. In 1969, while I was in solitary confinement as a POW in Vietnam, Buzz flew over in orbit. We did not know about it over there, because the Vietnamese told us the Americans were not able to land on the moon. But, Buzz, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins proved them wrong, and we found out about it later.

Buzz was a fellow Air Force flying pilot, and he remembered us by wearing my POW bracelet and taking an American flag to the moon for all prisoners of war in Vietnam.

Today, Buzz Aldrin, I want to say thank you and thank you to all our astronauts as the Nation celebrates a tremendous accomplishment, a walk on the moon. Here's to the future, Buzz, and to the astronauts who are working to reach Mars. We salute you. God bless America.

U.N. PROPOSES TO TAX AMERICANS ON INTERNET USE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. wants to tax Americans who use the Internet to pay for economic development in other countries. You heard it right. International bureaucracies at the United Nations are now proposing an e-mail tax on Americans.

This news simply boggles the mind. It is just not enough for liberals in Washington to tax everything that moves, every time you turn around, for every possible reason under the sun. The U.N., one of the biggest anti-Amer-

ican organizations around, now wants to pile on and really stick it to America where it hurts.

Our economy is booming, largely because of phenomenal growth in high technology sectors such as the Internet and computer technology. The U.N. does not think that is right, and it does not think it is fair that America is the world leader in Internet development. So they want to tax people who send e-mail.

This administration, which is the U.N.'s most enthusiastic backer, has responded in embarrassed silence. But Republicans think this latest U.N. outrage is truly outrageous, and it will stop it dead in its tracks.

SUPPORT TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to address the House regarding a bill which we will be discussing this morning and this afternoon, the Teacher Empowerment Act.

This is going to be one of the most important bills we consider this Congress, because our purpose here is to ensure that our children receive a good education. As important part of that is going to be a good education in science and mathematics. That is especially important for the future of our Nation.

As my colleagues probably know, we are not currently doing well in science education in the United States. Compared to other developed countries, we are near the bottom. That has to change. Part of this bill will ensure that our teachers' abilities to teach math and science will be enhanced and increased.

I can think of no better way of securing America's future than to vote for this bill, and thus improve the educational system of the United States, particularly with regard to mathematics and science education.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO KENNEDY FAMILY AND BESSETTE FAMILY

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my thoughts and prayers to the Kennedy and Besette families during this time of terrible tragedy.

As a New Yorker, I can tell my colleagues that John F. Kennedy, Jr. played a special role in our city. The way he conducted himself through the years with grace and dignity is something that we shall always remember.

Who can ever forget the little boy, John John, who saluted his father's casket on his third birthday. I just felt that, at this time, I wanted to express

the feelings of millions upon millions of Americans who really extend our grief and wishes and sadness to both the Kennedy and Besette families.

The Kennedy family has given so much to this country. It is very, very difficult for all of us during this time. I know that I express the feelings of all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I just felt it was very appropriate at this time to extend my heart and my hand to both families during this time of grief.

IMPROVE SCHOOLS BY EMPOWERING TEACHERS

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, a strong education system is one of the pillars of a strong America. Our youth deserve the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, and it is our responsibility to provide the necessary resources.

But before we challenge our students to be the best they can, we must first challenge our educators to be the best they can. As long as some classrooms continue to be staffed by ineffective teachers who do little more than satisfy a ratio, some students will suffer.

That is why I support the Teacher Empowerment Act that will be up today. This bill gives more flexibility in the use of Federal funds, allowing teachers to choose the training programs that best suit their classrooms needs without sacrificing accountability.

This bill also includes funding for new teachers, but the focus is on quality over quantity.

I urge my colleagues to empower our educators for a brighter future and to vote for passage of the Teacher Empowerment Act today.

DESIGNATING THE CHESTNUT- GIBSON MEMORIAL DOOR

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 158), as amended, designating the Document Door of the United States Capitol as the "Memorial Door".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 158

Whereas on July 24, 1998, a lone gunman entered the United States Capitol through the door known as the Document Door, located on the first floor of the East Front;

Whereas Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut was the first United States Capitol Police officer to confront the gunman just inside the Document Door and lost his life as a result;

Whereas Detective John Michael Gibson also confronted the gunman and lost his life in the ensuing shootout;

Whereas the last shot fired by Detective John Gibson—his final act as an officer of the law—finally brought down the gunman and ended his deadly rampage;

Whereas while the gunman's intentions are not fully known, nor may ever be known, it is clear that he would have killed more innocent people if United States Capitol Police